

The IRMACS Centre

Schedule B Centre Document

0. Schedule B Centre

The IRMACS Centre is a Class B University Centre. As such, the decision-making and policy-making process for IRMACS follows the Policies and Procedures (R 40.01) set forward for University Centres and Institutes (see www.sfu.ca/policies/research/r40-01.htm).

The IRMACS Centre has a university-wide mandate within the portfolio of the Vice President, Research. IRMACS recognises its obligation to conduct activities in accordance with University policies.

1. Description / Vision

The principal vision of the IRMACS Centre is to provide a flexible, collaborative, computationally sophisticated environment at SFU for more than one hundred scientists whose primary laboratory tool is the computer. IRMACS provides an environment that removes traditional boundaries between scientific disciplines, in order to promote novel initiatives. The IRMACS Centre capitalises on SFU's strengths in ground-breaking and interdisciplinary research, together with the expertise of its computationally sophisticated researchers.

The IRMACS Centre fulfills a critical need to house diverse groups of scientists for variable periods of time, by creating a reconfigurable open research facility that efficiently incorporates the community of scientists, research associates, students, and visitors in an adaptive manner.

The IRMACS Centre houses research projects for varying periods, providing physical workspace, state-of-the-art computational and communications resources, and expert technical support. A proportion of the assignable space is set aside for short-term and sabbatical visitors.

Currently the following areas have successful interdisciplinary projects housed in IRMACS: collaborative communications, computational algebra, health informatics, statistical genetics, telecommunications, signal processing, computational genomics, modeling and prediction, optimisation, cryptography and computational number theory.

The IRMACS vision is to help SFU:

- to attract and retain high quality faculty
- to attract and promote high quality research interaction
- to attract and support high quality graduate students
- to attract short-term and sabbatical visitors
- to alleviate some space pressures
- to create new linkages between researchers in different Departments, Schools and Institutions
- to provide a springboard for future large initiatives and grant applications

2. Activities

- support, promotion and housing of high-quality interdisciplinary research groups in the mathematical and computational sciences
- promotion of new scientific projects and collaborations
- provision of state-of-the-art communications resources for scientific collaboration
- provision and co-ordination of significant computational and visualisation resources
- housing of visiting Highly Qualified Personnel for weeks or months
- co-ordination and provision of space for lecture series
- provision of facilities for moderate-sized meetings, workshops, research conferences and related activities

3. Management

See Management Structure document below.

4. Funding Sources

Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF)
Simon Fraser University – VP Research, Finance
In-kind contributions from vendors
Granting Agencies – long term

5. Budget implications / Library needs

Ongoing funding development / Minimal

IRMACS Centre Management Structure

The accompanying diagram shows the management structure of IRMACS.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is responsible for overall running, policy setting, and making recommendations on allocation of resources (including space) to projects and to visitors. This committee comprises 8 members:

Executive Director & Project Leader

Associate Director, Research

Associate Director, Admin. & Operations

Associate Director, IT

plus 4 elected faculty members, at least one of which is from each of the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Applied Science and the Faculty of Health Sciences. The electorate is the Membership (see below).

The IRMACS Centre Management Committee is made up of:

Peter Borwein	Project Leader & Executive Director
Rob Ballantyne	Associate Director, IT
Pam Borghardt	Associate Director, Admin. & Operations
Felix Breden	Faculty of Science
Veselin Jungic	Associate Director, Research
Wade Parkhouse	Faculty of Applied Science
Ljiljana Trajkovic	Faculty of Applied Science
Les Vertesi	Faculty of Health Science

The Management Committee may obtain advice on the scientific merit of proposals, devising its own procedures to consult disinterested scientific advisors. It then makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

The Management Committee can set up groups to deal with specific tasks as required, for example identifying new interdisciplinary opportunities.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has an oversight role, particularly regarding University interests. It does not make policy, but can require the Management Committee to reconsider decisions. The initial voting members of the Board are:

Dean of Science

Dean of Applied Science

Dean of Health Science

VP Research

The Executive Director and the Associate Director, Research, together with other appropriate staff, may attend meetings of the Board to assist information flow, but do not have a vote.

The Board members themselves determine any changes to the composition of the Board, in consultation with the Management Committee.

VP Research

The IRMACS Centre is a formally constituted Class B University Centre reporting to the VP Research.

Membership

The Membership of IRMACS will ratify important decisions such as appointment of a new Associate Director, Research, changes to the composition of the Board of Trustees, or significant changes of direction for IRMACS.

The Membership of IRMACS comprises all faculty members with a direct interest in IRMACS (as determined by the Management Committee) together with non-faculty from each current IRMACS project as appropriate.

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